

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-4, 7-21, 24-27, 29-38, 40-44 and 46-49 are pending.

In the Official Action, claims 1, 3-4, 7-21, 24-27, 29-38, 40-44, and 46-49 were rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of US Patent 7,206,267 in view of Gotoh et al. (US Patent 6,292,625; hereinafter Gotoh) and Krakirian (US Patent 5,504,868); claims 1, 3-4, 7-21, 24-27, 29-38, 40-44, and 46-49 were rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-31 of US Patent 7,333,407 in view of Gotoh and Krakirian; and claims 1, 3-4, 7-21, 24-27, 29-38, 40-44, and 46-49 were provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 4 and 6-37 of copending Application No. 11/368,655 in view of Krakirian. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-21, 24-27, 29-38, 40-44, and 46-49 were otherwise indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

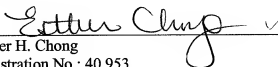
Applicant files herewith a Terminal Disclaimer relative to US Patent 7,206,267, US Patent 7,333,407 and co-pending Application No. 11/368,655. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 1, 3-4, 7-21, 24-27, 29-38, 40-44, and 46-49 are in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael E. Monaco, Reg. No. 52,041, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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